

Thousands Attend KM Celebration

Thousands of Piedmont Carolinas citizens and visitors jammed Kings Mountain Tuesday for the culmination of a five-day week of activities celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain.

Mayor John Henry Moss, Celebration chairman, said that the parade, although delayed for 45-60 minutes, drew the largest crowd in many years to a Kings Mountain celebration.

"There were a lot of people uptown," said Police Chief Jackie Barrett. Spectators lined the parade route on Battleground Avenue, West Mountain Street and Phifer Road where the 100 units disbanded at John Gamble Stadium for the principal address of the mammoth celebration.

The arrival of North Carolina Governor Jim Hunt in his red, white and blue helicopter as the head of the parade approached the stadium added to the excitement which was apparent in every event scheduled throughout the full day, around the clock from 7 a.m. until conclusion of the next to the last



Governor Hunt addresses crowd at John Gamble Stadium...

evening performance of the outdoor drama at KM National Military Park at near-midnight.

"You people at Kings Mountain set the example of the character which built our great state and nation," said the Governor who drew long applause for a speech interspersed with patriotic fervor, pride and challenges.

"It's hard for us to understand the sacrifice made here 200 years ago. We do know that men and women and families of that day were prepared to give their lives and did just that to obtain freedom, liberty and independence. We have been blessed for 200 years with the fruits of that sacrifice."

"Americans are the only strong defenders of freedom," declared the Governor, who said that "we worthily inherit the kind of heroism marked by the people who came over the mountain and set this country on the road to freedom. Americans hold in their hands the keys to determine that

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Five States Represented In Battle Celebration

The heroes of the 1780 Battle of Kings Mountain were remembered by thousands of patriotic citizens from five Southern states Tuesday and in the final moments of the day's long events their final resting place atop Kings Mountain was marked with red, white and blue flowers.

Governor Jim Hunt of North Carolina and Governor Richard Riley of South Carolina were joined by a 93-year-old descendant of John Sevier in placing the memorial wreaths after a procession to the battlefield by crowds of people who attended the Bicentennial ceremonies at the Park celebrating the 200th birthday of the famous battle which historians say was the turning point of the American Revolution.

Footsore marchers ended their historic 219 mile two week trip to Kings Mountain, reaching the Battlefield at 3 p.m., tired but exhilarated and greeted at the ceremonies with cheers and loud applause.

A U.S. Marine Corps and state National Guardsmen from N.C., S.C., Virginia, Tennessee and Georgia presented the colorful flags of the five sponsoring states in an impressive ceremony after which P. Bradley Morrah, chairman of the S.C. Bicentennial Commission and master of ceremonies, presented the Overmountain Marchers.

To the marchers, the drama of the battle of Kings Mountain was saluted with their trek over the Overmountain Victory Trail and the excitement at their ar-

rival at the Park was a highlight of the Celebration which was marked by pomp and pageantry.

"I salute your hardy witness to history," U.S. Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus told the marchers and his words were echoed by other platform speakers.

"It's an honor to greet the first people to walk the Overmountain Victory Trail since it was designated as a historic trail early last month by President Carter in legislation introduced by Congressman James T. Broyhill," said Andrus. "All of us here today share the spirit of those frontiersmen and that spirit was the motivating force that helped create the Historic Trail.

Congressman Broyhill, commending the marchers, presented a plaque appropriately engraved, "To the friends of the Overmountain Victory Trail for help in making this historic trail a reality."

After reaching the battlefield, descendants of such heroes as Campbell, Hawthorne, Lacey, Houston, Hambright, Cleveland, Winston, Williams and McDowell were presented octagon brass-barreled pistols (swords) acknowledging their patriotic and valorous service at Kings Mountain.

"I think we are in remarkably good spirit after all the rain and mud we marched through," said Rip Collins, president of the Overmountain Victory Trail Association, the 300-member group which organizes the annual march.

"This march made us feel good about ourselves and our na-

tion," said Collins.

Kings Mountain National Military Park Superintendent Mike Loveless, who welcomed the crowds, took the occasion to pay tribute to the marchers, to the longtime assistance by chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution in helping preserve the heritage of the battlefields, and to the descendants of many heroes at the Battle of Kings Mountain who converged in the city for the Celebration.

Other distinguished guests were former Senator Sam Ervin of Morganton, Zell Miller, Lieutenant Governor of Georgia, Gen. Carl D. Wallace of Tennessee, Captain Randall W. Young of Virginia, General William C. Westmoreland, honorary chairman for the Celebration, Charles Kilgo, of

Georgia, Roy Wood of Washington, D.C., Joe Brown and Bob Baker of the National Park Service, Rep. Sam Manning of South Carolina, Dr. William Briggs of Limestone College, Mrs. J.R. Broughan, Regent of KM Chapter of DAR of York, S.C., Robert Collins, Conrad Kiskey, of the OVT, former KM Park Supt. Ben Moomaw and Mrs. Moomaw, Celebration Chairman Mayor John Henry Moss and Mrs. Moss, and representatives of government, federal, local and state from the two Carolinas.

Ironically, one interested onlooker and a guest at the Celebration was David Crawford of Atlanta, Ga., Britain's consul general representing the British government. While Americans were paid

tribute to valor and wreaths were placed on their graves in memorial tribute, Crawford placed a red, white and blue wreath on the grave of British Col. Patrick Ferguson, defeated by the Rebels at Kings Mountain on Oct. 7, 1780.

Crawford made the remarks that "We are a modern people in a modern century. I think it's more important to look at our modern day enemies. I hope nobody overlooks that."

Because of delays of keynote speakers for the 200th Anniversary Celebration in downtown Kings Mountain, the Overmountain men marched part way with the parade, then took buses to Kings Mountain National Military Park to insure their prompt 3

p.m. arrival to coincide with the time of the famous battle 200 years later on Oct. 7, 1780.

Andrus told the crowds gathered around the red, white and blue platform on a beautiful Indian Summer day that "America still has problems but the patriotism displayed at Kings Mountain today gives us a better perspective for the future. The Battle of Kings Mountain gave us hope and a legacy for the future. For five years the struggle for independence was a long struggle, filled with many dark days, with nothing left at times but grits and guts.

"Some of the marchers today have walked these trails six times. I salute your hardy witness to history."



Secretary Andrus speaks to huge gathering at National Military Park...

175 Kick Off Celebration At Early Prayer Breakfast

Kings Mountain's patriotic celebration began early Tuesday and appropriately with prayers of thanksgiving by more than 175 mountaineers and guests at First Baptist Church.

Rep. Jim Broyhill of Lenoir made the keynote address at the Prayer Breakfast which launched a round of activities Tuesday, the 200th birthday of what historians termed the turning point in the fight for independence, the Battle of Kings Mountain.

"Religious freedoms were foremost in the minds of our forefathers and their faith carried them through many ordeals," said Congressman Broyhill. "It's appropriate that

you begin this 200th Celebration with the proper remembrance of these religious values and heritage and the story of the valiant mountaineers of 1780 parallels the story of Gideon in the Bible because faith and persistence paid off," he said.

The recent strike in Poland is an example of the religious suppression in today's world, he said. "Americans take for granted what is denied millions of others throughout the world," he added.

Prior to the address, Rev. Gary Bryant, pastor of First Presbyterian Church and Rev. Felix R. Kelaher, pastor of St.

Mary's Catholic Church of Shelby, spoke on the importance of prayer, Rev. Mr. Bryant using a text from St. Matthews, "Thy Will Be Done" and Rev. Kelaher using a text from St. Luke 9. Prayers of thanksgiving were offered by W.A. Russell and John L. McGill. Allen Jolley led group singing of patriotic songs and greetings were made by Mayor John Henry Moss, Celebration chairman, Black Leonard, representing the host church, and Rev. Clyde Bearden, pastor of First Baptist Church, who presided.

Leading the ceremonies was a Marine color guard which posted the Stars and Stripes.



Broyhill speaks at prayer breakfast...